

Hazelden Foundation
15251 Pleasant Valley Road
P.O. Box 11
Center City, MN 55012-0011
651-213-4200 tel 651-213-4544 fax



January 7, 2011

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Member of Congress
1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

On behalf of the Hazelden Foundation, I write in support of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. We appreciate your efforts to preserve this crucial new law.

Hazelden and the wider substance abuse treatment and recovery community oppose efforts to repeal and defund this important law, particularly the essential benefits package provision. As you know, the new law expands coverage of substance abuse treatment for those in the insurance "exchanges."

Increasing access to addiction treatment reduces overall health care costs. Patients who have been through treatment are 39% less likely to visit an emergency room and 35% less likely to have an extended hospital stay.

Treatment also dramatically lowers the costs to society of untreated alcoholism. In fact, every dollar spent on treatment saves twelve dollars in health care and law enforcement-related costs.

Once again, thank you for your support of the new health care reform law and for your opposition to efforts to repeal it.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark G. Mishek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mark G. Mishek
President and CEO